

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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Action

Control. 17349

Receiv. October 23, 1962

EUR

4:30 p.m.

DATE 10/23/62

Info

FROM: Madrid

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 504, October 23, 8 p.m.

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PRIORITY

President's Cuba speech received fullest media coverage: Editorial reaction has not had time develop fully (see separate USIS message).

GOS officials with whom Embassy officers have spoken have individually gone further in praising President's actions than the official Foreign Office communique (EMBTel 502).

Approving attitude of Spanish armed forces made clear to Embassy officer by both [ ] They appeared to reflect attitude noted elsewhere to effect that Presidential moves excellent, and should even have been made sooner.

Consulate Valencia reports speech received with some surprise at US firmness, and with slight undercurrent of fear war imminent.

Incomplete sampling opposition opinion (socialist) reveals theory

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-2- 504, October 23, 8 p.m. from Madrid

that Cuba not really threat to US and therefore speech made to impress not Castro but Khrushchev in advance possible Kennedy-Khrushchev meeting.

Delegation CONSEJO REVOLUCIONARIA DE CUBA called Embassy today bringing letter to President expressing their enthusiasm.

WOODWARD

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